(b) whether Gvernment have made any arrangement to purchase oilseeds if the prices fall?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Presently there is no proposal to stop the import of edible oils in view of the anticipated good crop.

(b) No, Sir.

Loss of foodgrains due to rats

1106. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge loss of foodgrains due to rats in the godowns of FCI all over the country;

(b) what is the total loss of foodgrains in FCI godowns; and

(c) what remedial steps Government are taking to minimise loss by rats and other insects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The yearly total storage loss of foodgrains in FCI godowns which occured due to various factors such as moisture loss on account of driage, insects, roadents, birds etc. since 1984-85 is as follows:

(Figs. in lakh M.Ts)

Year	Qty. issued	Storage loss	% age of storage loss to Qty. issued
1984-85	301.7	1.80	0.60
1985-86	416.3	1.85	0.47
1986-87	463.7	2·23	0.48
1987-88	Yet to be finalised.		

(c) FCI has been taking various measures for preservation and maintenance of the health of foodgrains stocks and reduction of losses in covered godowns as well as in CAP storage. These measures include prophylactic and curative treatments, aeration and periodical inspection of stocks by qualified technical personnel. Efforts are also being made to augment the covered storage capacity by constructing scientifically built rat proof godowns with high plinth.

Loss due to natural calamities

1107. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of life and property due to natural calamities (floods and droughts) in various parts of the country during the year, 1988 particularly in Haryana.

(b) the assistance sanctioned/provided to each State by the Central Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to create a permanent relief fund for providing assistance to the people affected by natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Statement, showing the state-wise extent of damage including in Haryana due to floods of 1988 as reported by the affected States is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 148, Annexure No. 52].

Only the Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported drought during south-west monsoon period of 1988, as per details given below:

No. of distt. affected	...	3
No. of villages affected	...	3484
Population affected	...	19.30 lakhs
Cropped area affected (more than 50%)	...	6.35 lakh ha.

(b) State-wise details of ceilings of expenditure approved so far to the States affected by floods of 1988 are given in the Statement (*See* below). The memoranda received from other flood affected States as well as from Government of Madhya Pradesh for drought relief are under process.

(c) Presently there is no proposal under consideration of Government of India for creation of a permament relief fund.

Statement

Ceiling of expenditure approved for floods of 1988

(Rs. in crores)

State	Ceilings approved
Andhra Pradesh	28.76
Assam	85.36
Gujarat	27.02
Haryana	31 04
Jammu and Kashmir (1st Wave)	13.55
Kerala	10.55
Sikkim (Including Earthquake)	8.49
West Bengal	23.56

Increase in the prices of pulses

1108. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 30th September, 1988 under the caption 'Prices of foodgrains and all pulses varieties go up;

(b) if so, whether the prices of all pulses are soaring high; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps Government propose to take to make pulses available at a reasonable price through PDS?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) The news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' of 30th September, 1988 indicated prices of several essential commodities including pulses being sold at Super Bazar, Delhi compared with the prices prevailing in Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The prices of pulses in general have been high and some of them exhibited a rise during September, 1988 due to shortfall in production on account of drought in 1987, lean season, and disruption in supplies on account of floods and heavy rains in some areas.

The Government has taken a number of measures to contain rise in the prices of essential commodities including pulses. The main thrust of the Government policy has been to increase production of various essential commodities particularly of those like pulses which are in short supply. Although pulses are not supplied by the Union Government through Public Distribution System, some State Government have distributed pulses under their public distribution system. To augment the domestic supplies, Government has allowed import of pulses under Open General Licence and its export has also been banned. From time to time, the Chief Ministers and Lt. Governors have been urged to enforce strictly the provisions of the